

3738

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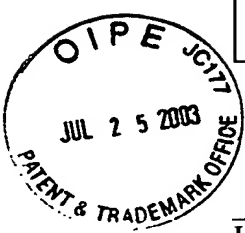
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 23, 2003

Signature:

(Thomas M. Palisi)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2658  
(PATENT)



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Castro et al.

Application No.: 09/815,504

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: March 23, 2001

Examiner: A. Stewart

For: MODULAR IMPLANT FOR FUSING  
ADJACENT BONE STRUCTURE

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JUL 30 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby submit a copy of a Written Opinion that recently issued in connection with Applicants' corresponding PCT application. Copies of all the references cited in the Written Opinion were submitted in a previous Information Disclosure Statement. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) undersigned counsel hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application to the above-reference patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of said statement.

AB  
12/10/03  
NOT considered  
NO - 1449.-.

Application No.: 09/815,504

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2658

In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: July 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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